



Nicole Lee with her three children, from left, Kayla White, 7, Jaden White, 10 and Trey White, 6.

A Single Mom Finds Her Calling in Nursing

When Nicole Lee was laid off from her job as an executive assistant at a telecommunications firm just before Christmas in 2008, she had no idea what the future would hold. She entered a training program for medical assistant, but still was unable to find a job. Then one day she noticed a sign about a program in Newark that trains students to be licensed practical nurses, or LPNs.

"I called and took the test and was able to enroll," said Lee, 29, who lives in Elizabeth.

The divorced mother of three was recently among 70 students who officially completed their course of study at the New Community School of Practical Nursing. Lee was one of two graduates recognized for Academic Excellence during the ceremony held at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newark. She was also the first student to take the state licensing exam, which she passed, officially making her an LPN.

"It was very challenging," she said of the 14-month NCC nursing program. "It built a lot of skills and character."

Lee, who enrolled in the program

back in February of 2009, attended classes during the day and still dutifully cared for her children in the evening, in addition to studying.

"You still have to help them with homework and do the cooking and cleaning," she said. "It took a lot of sacrifice. They are proud of my accomplishments."

Lee credited Ellen Boddie, school director and acting director of NCC's Workforce Development Center, with being a source of support for her during the program, for which she received financial aid to help pay her tuition.

"She puts a lot of time into teaching and answering questions," Lee said. "She really cares. Yes, she's tough, but with a good purpose."

The school's clinical laboratory, where students had an opportunity to practice medical procedures on life-like simulators, really helped bring the textbooks alive, she said. The students also worked in a clinical setting with real patients at the New Community Extended Care Center and at UMDNJ-The University Hospital, both in Newark.

EMPATHY

"Religion should be a source for reconciliation, for tolerance and for empathy."

Charles Kimball

"If there is any one secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person's point of view and see things from his angle as well as your own."

Henry Ford

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Bonnie Jean Wasmund

"None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody...bent down and helped us pick up our boots."

Thurgood Marshall

"If moderation is a fault, than indifference is a crime."

George C. Lichtenberg

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Nursing, cont'd.....



Nicole Lee is capped by NCC board member Madge Wilson during the ceremony at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newark

Lee is confident she will find work in the healthcare field, which is one of the few industries still experiencing growth.

"This program has prepared me to be the best LPN possible," she said. "I am grateful for the excellent training I have received under Ms. Boddie and the New Community staff."

One-stop Family Resource Success Center Busier Than Ever

Curtis Bowers needed help finding a job. Maria Brinkley was trying to put her life back together after a fire. Ruby Hunter simply required an assist with Thanksgiving dinner. All of these individuals were able to find help last year through NCC's Family Resource Success Center, a place where individuals and families come seeking assistance for various problems, all under one roof.

The center served close to **4,300** individuals in 2010, assisting with more than **6,385** issues.

"I can say that 2010 was one of our busiest years ever," said Joann Williams-Swiney, center director. "With the economy still slumping, even families and individuals who were once stable are finding they now need help with everything from paying their utility bills to finding a job."

One of the comments heard by clients of the center repeatedly is that they don't feel stigmatized by reaching out for assistance. The staff, which includes several volunteers from the Urban League of Essex County's Mature Workers Program, is described as extremely helpful and welcoming.

"At first I was embarrassed because I have never been one to take hand-outs, but I had to put my pride aside," said Brinkley, 47, of Belleville, who, along with her 14-year-old son, was successful in getting rental assistance for a new apartment after a fire destroyed their residence last June.

The Family Resource Success Center is located in the Pathmark Shopping Center at 131-185 Bergen St. in Newark.



Ruby Hunter, seated, was able to receive an entire Thanksgiving dinner package, donated by a local church, through New Community's Family Resource Success Center.

NCC on the Move

Despite the difficult economic times, New Community Corporation is still continuing to grow.

- NCC in 2011 is moving ahead on development of a **Maternity residence** in Newark for pregnant teens and young mothers.
- NCC In 2011 is continuing development of a **mixed-use project** on Springfield Avenue in Newark that will include housing and commercial space.
- NCC is working with a major community healthcare provider on a **housing/healthcare project** targeting the chronically homeless.
- NCC opened Roseville Commons, a **50-unit, mixed-use, affordable housing development** in Newark's West Ward, in the fall of 2010.
- NCC served more than **2,000** young people in 2010 through our recreation and after-school programs, charter school and two early learning centers.
- More than **1,200** seniors received services like meals-on-wheels, home health and wellness care in 2010.

Please continue to help us meet these continuing pressing needs of the community we serve.

MEDICAL STUDENTS REACHING OUT TO NEW MOMS AT NCC's HARMONY HOUSE



Zamaniya Cobb, far left, who is holding her daughter, Janai Davis, is pictured during a New Moms session with UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School students, from left, Carolyn Certo, Christie Buonpane, Prasanthi Yelavarthy and Katherine Lubarsky.

Young mothers in the Maternity Group Home program at NCC's Harmony House are receiving additional support through a program at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School that has medical students serving as their mentors.

Called "New Moms," the volunteer organization was originally started to pair medical student mentors with pregnant teens from the Newark community through the OB/GYN clinic at **UMDNJ-The University Hospital**.

Students follow the young women throughout their pregnancy, providing them with emotional and medical support. Educational workshops are also held on site at Harmony House, where information is presented on important women's health issues such as sexuality, general health, prenatal and pediatric care.

"The program seems to be most helpful to those women who actively listen and ask questions," explained Katherine Lubarsky, 23, a second-year medical student who is volunteering her time in the New Moms program.

She said some past sessions have touched on confusing issues, such as contraceptive options, immunizations and differentiating between the common cold and the flu.

"Often times young parents have many ques-

tions that go unanswered during short doctor's visits, so we enjoy being able to answer medically-related questions," Lubarsky added.

Lisa Chavis, senior case manager at Harmony House, said the program has been very helpful to the clients of the Maternity Group Home program.

"We believe the more support these young women and their children receive, the more confidence they will have and the better they will do," she said. "We are grateful to have this partnership with the New Moms program at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School."

Flu Shots Critical for Seniors

New Community has been vigilant when it comes to getting its seniors vaccinated against the flu, which they can now do conveniently in their buildings through the services of the Essex Valley Visiting Nurse Association.

Flu season is well underway and many seniors have heeded the message to get their shots to prevent coming down with the influenza virus. The flu kills close to 24,000 Americans a year. Individuals 65 and older and persons with chronic medical conditions like asthma, lung disease and heart disease are particularly at risk of developing flu-related complications like pneumonia.

"I always get my shot," said Theodore Coggsell, 76, a senior residing in New Community Associates at 180 South Orange Ave. in Newark, who recently received his flu shot downstairs in the building's first floor Wellness Clinic.



Hettie Winston, a resident of New Community Associates in Newark, prepares to receive her flu shot in the Wellness office staffed by NCC's Essex Valley Visiting Nurse Association, part of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey.

Cristhian Barcelos



Even as a boy growing up on the outskirts of the capital city of Montevideo, Uruguay, Cristhian Barcelos remembers having a real thirst for knowledge.

"My family was working poor, but that didn't stop me from wanting to learn all I could," explained Barcelos, one of four children. "My parents divorced when I was 11 and a year later I moved in with my grandparents. I started working at my aunt's bakery in exchange for her continuing to pay for my private courses in English and computer."

Once he managed to save enough money for his own apartment at age 16, Barcelos landed a job as a messenger/collector with the accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche. He also worked part-time

as a collector with another company while simultaneously attending high school during the evening.

By the time Barcelos arrived in the United States in March of 2001, he had already earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, as well as an Associate's Degree in Graphic and Web Design.

His first encounter with New Community Corp. came in 2001 when he decided to take some advanced ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at NCC's Hispanic Development Corp. It did not take Barcelos long to become totally immersed in the programming and he ended up helping other students with their studies.

"I started volunteering my time

for NCC in November of 2001 as a computer instructor and office consultant," he recalled.

Hired as a part-time computer instructor for NCC the following year, Barcelos is now NCC's Manager of Adult Learning, overseeing educational programs for some 2,400 students a year in Basic Literacy, General Education Development, English as a Second Language, Citizenship and Computers.

"The most fulfilling aspect of my work is to hear all the personal success stories from the students and how much these programs mean to them," said Barcelos, 35. "Each of them is facing different barriers, but they all find the strength to continue to forge ahead and reach their goals, one step at a time."

Barcelos said he is proud of the fact that the Adult Learning Program, which is based at NCC's Workforce Development Center and Hispanic Development Center, both in Newark, continues to improve each semester, with better program accountability and greater focus on meeting the needs of students. Many of the basic literacy students served through the program ultimately go on to receive their GED, the high school equivalency diploma.

"The fact that we are helping more students with better services is pleasing," said Barcelos.

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